

On roll call no. 601, YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
(RETIRED) RONALD J. TEIXEIRA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald J. Teixeira for receiving the Silver Star for his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States on March 22nd 1969.

Mr. Teixeira was destined for a life of bravery. Born soon after the end of World War II on Veterans Day, he first joined the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey to complete his basic training before being transferred to Ft. Gordon and Ft. Benning in Georgia to finish his training as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the airborne infantry. In December of 1968, he received orders and shipped out with the 101st Airborne for Vietnam. Due to a shortage of NCOs in the 4th Infantry Division, Sergeant Teixeira was placed with Company B, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division as part of security details for bridges, artillery units, medic visits to friendly villages and resupply convoys.

It was while protecting a resupply convoy on March 22, 1969, that enemy forces attacked. Sergeant Teixeira's armored personnel carrier was destroyed and he was wounded along with several of his crewmen. Rather than seeking safety and medical attention immediately, Sergeant Teixeira returned enemy fire and engaged their positions until his ammunition had been expended. After receiving basic medical attention, he assisted in the treatment of other wounded soldiers and set up defensive positions until a medical evacuation (medivac) helicopter came to the aid of the ambushed unit.

Sergeant Teixeira's fight to survive and protect his fellow soldiers that day was not over, however. While lifting off from the landing zone, his medivac helicopter was shot down by an enemy rocket. Pulling out the other wounded and injured from the wreckage, Sergeant Teixeira valiantly continued to risk his safety and life in order to keep his fellow soldiers alive until they were evacuated out of Vietnam and to Japan to receive medical attention.

With a slip of fate, Sergeant Teixeira never received the Silver Star during his service in the United States Army. Instead of returning home to file the necessary paperwork to receive this award, Sergeant Teixeira shipped out to Korea after recuperating in Japan to continue protecting American lives. His bravery, service, and dedication is unmatched.

And so, on this Veterans Day and, coincidentally, his 70th birthday, it is my sincere honor to be able to present one of our nation's highest military commemorations to Sergeant Teixeira for his outstanding military service and for the great credit he has brought upon himself, the Army and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this distinguished soldier for his determination and exemplary devotion to his duty. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Mr. Teixeira a happy 70th birthday and thanking

him for the sacrifices he made in service to his country.

HONORING BETTY GRAY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Betty Gray, a loyal public servant and a key staff member on the House Armed Services Committee. Betty has served in Congress for 40 years—a benchmark only the most dedicated public servants achieve.

Betty typifies what it means to be a public servant, a colleague, a friend and, most importantly, a mother and wife. Anyone who has had the opportunity to meet Betty quickly understands that the most important thing to her is her family. Her husband, Dick, and two children, Zach and Cal, are at the center of her life.

We all fear the day Betty decides to retire. While no one is irreplaceable, some people come very close. Betty is one of those people. Her institutional knowledge and administrative skill set are unrivaled. After 40 years of service, Betty has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding about the Armed Services Committee and Congress that cannot be replaced. When she retires, a part of Congress will retire with her.

Betty is a true professional. Ask anyone who has worked with her about the quality of her service and the response is unequivocal: Betty has always been the quiet, consistent presence on the committee—the person who is never rattled, regardless of how chaotic or stressful things become. She is always here to remind us of what has been tried before and whether it did or did not work.

An eagle-eye editor of letters and memoranda, Betty is literally the person who makes sure that we “cross our T's and dot our I's.” Not only is she the person with the clipboard checking off staff at Member meetings, she is the person who assures that the Members know the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the meeting. Throw five conflicting times and dates at her, and Betty can make calm out of schedule chaos. As security administrator for classified information, Betty literally handles our deepest, darkest secrets. For 37 years, she has shepherded every National Defense Authorization Act through committee markup, ensured every roll-call vote is tallied correctly, and served as the committee's unofficial historian.

On a more personal level, Betty is the librarian of the House Armed Services Committee, the school counselor, the motherly presence who remembers everyone's birthdays and, on occasions, even the school nurse. She is the go-to person to get things done and the one who lends a helping hand or a listening ear.

Betty has outlasted eight Speakers of the House, seven Presidents, and ten House Armed Services Chairmen. Speaking as someone who has been here for a while, I understand the difficulty of achieving that level of longevity. We are here today to celebrate all that Betty has done for her country and for Congress, and to thank her for her service. You are a true public servant, Betty. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Betty Gray for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BEN FLANAGAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long, successful career of Ben Flanagan, who served the Grapevine Police Department for 25 distinguishable years.

Ben served the Grapevine Police Department in several capacities from 1989 to 2014, ultimately retiring as Assistant Chief of Police. Born and raised in Grapevine, Texas, Ben graduated from Grapevine High School in 1970. Upon graduation, he joined the US Army for two years before attending Tarrant County Community College where he studied political science. Ben would then serve the Lewisville Police Department for one year before beginning his exceptional career with the Grapevine Police Department.

The career Ben made for himself is full of honors, success, and hard work as he held seven different positions within the department, quickly moving up the ranks. In 1989, Ben began as a patrol officer and eventually retired as Assistant Chief of Police, acquiring an impressive resume along the way. Ben was honored as officer of the year in 1991 and detective of the year in 1994. He also participated in hostage negotiations and was a member of the SWAT team. Ben played a pivotal role in shaping the police department into the institution it is today, as well as helping keep the city safe for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Ben's North Texas roots are deep, as he grew up fishing the shores of Lake Grapevine and his father had farmed the land that is now part of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. To this day he enjoys the outdoors and many of its activities including fishing and hunting. Ben accumulated 46 commendations during his career, including an outstanding service award in 2004 from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Ben's dedication and positive attitude is known throughout the community and travelled with him during his tenure. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize one of the great citizens of the 24th district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the career of Ben Flanagan. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under